ISKCON Temple, Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh

Ref: Wikipedia

ISKCON Temple, Vrindavan

ISKCON Vrindavan, also called **Sri Krishna Balaram Mandir**, is one of the major ISKCON temples in the world. It is a Gaudiya Vaishnava temple located in the city of Vrindavan, Mathura district, in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.[1] The temple is dedicated to the Hindu gods Krishna and Balarama. The other deities of temple are Radha Krishna and Gauranga Nityananda.

History

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, founder–*acharya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, inaugurated the Krishna Balaram Mandir and installed deities (*murtis*) of Krishna–Balaram, Radha–Shyamasundar, the *gopis* Lalita Devi and Vishakha Devi, and Gaura–Nitai on Ram Navami (April 20) 1975.

Deities

The presiding deities of the temple are Krishna and Balarama at the central altar. On the right altar are Radha Krishna as Sri Sri Radha Shyamsundar with the gopis Lalita and Vishakha. On the left altar are Chaitanya Mahaprabhu with Nityananda, and ISKCON founder A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and his guru Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati.[4]

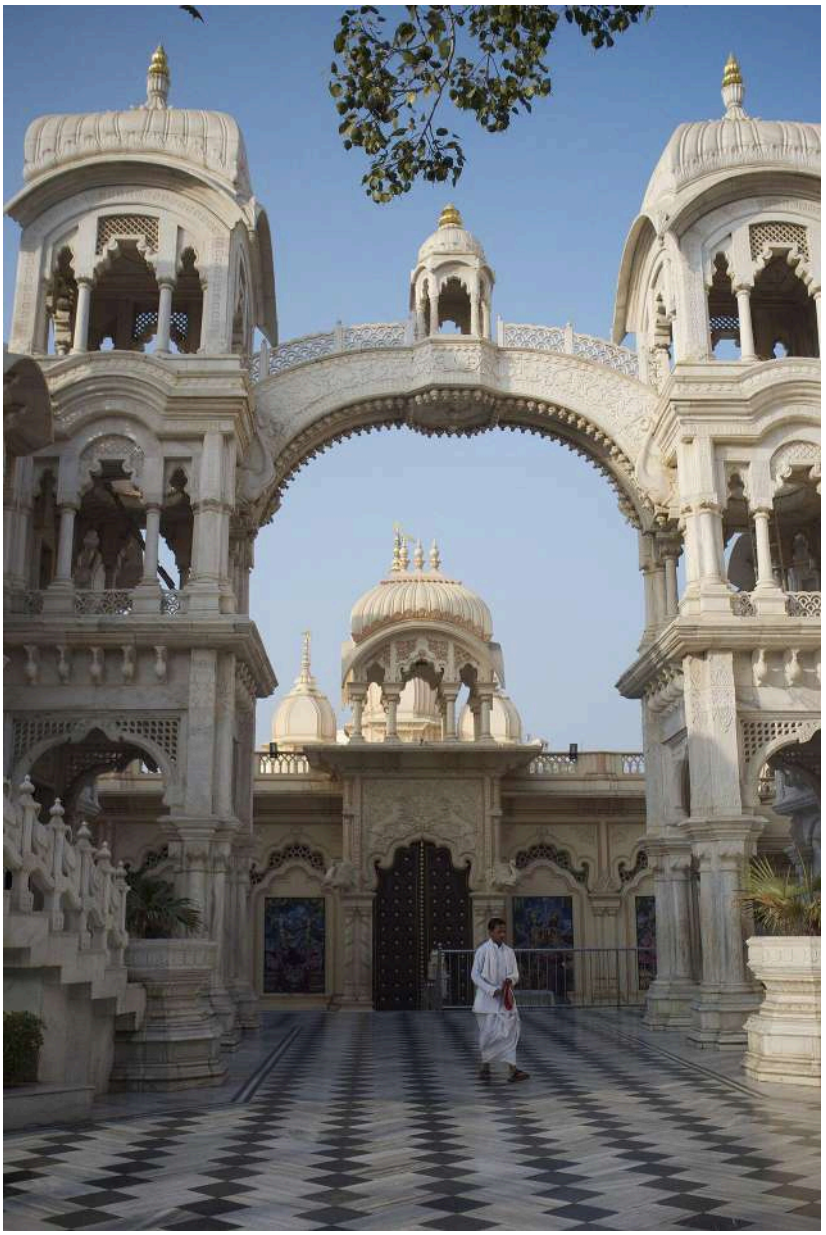
Near the temple, at the entrance to the complex, is the *samadhi mandir* of Prabhupada, built of white marble.

Festivals

- Krishna Janmashtami - Birth anniversary of Krishna
- Radhashtami - Birth anniversary of Radha
- Balarama Purnima - Birth anniversary of Balarama
- Gaura-purnima - Birth anniversary of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
- Nityananda trayodashi - Birthday anniversary of Nityananda
- Gopashtami - Festival dedicated to pastimes of Krishna with Cows
- Holi - Festival of love and colours, Major festival associated with pastimes of Radha Krishna
- Sharad Purnima - Festival associated with the maharaas of Radha Krishna and gopis.
- Kartik Purnima - Festival associated with raslia of Radha-Krishna and gopis.
- Chaturmaas

- Kartik Damodar Maas - Kartik month celebration which is believed to be the most auspicious month for the worship of Radha Krishna
- Diwali - Major Hindu festival dedicated to Sita Rama (another form of Radha Krishna)
- Appearance and disappearance days (birth and death days) of Vaishnava *acharyas* and saints.

Photos



ISKCON Temple,Vrindavan, India

Radha Shyamsundar at ISKCON

Radha Shyamsundar on Radhashtami

Outer appearance of Temple

Alley inside the Temple

Inside area of Temple

24 hrs keertan inside Temple

Deities…Krishna, Balaram

Wall art inside Temple

Samadhi temple of Srila Prabhupada…Founder of Temple

Statues of Krishna, Balaram outside temple museum

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Ref: GrokAI

ISKCON Temple, Vrindavan

Info is given under following headings:

Location, address, phone, how to get there. Greatness of this temple. About Sri LAX Prabhupada, Legends and history. Architecture of temple, deities. Sub-deities daily rituals and poojas and their charges ..special poojas and rituals and their charges.. festivals, facilities for devotees...like accommodation etc. Donation info and bank acct number etc. Nearby temples. Other tourist attractions. Nearby budget hotels. Any other info...etc

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The ISKCON Temple in Vrindavan, officially known as Sri Sri Krishna Balaram Mandir, is a prominent Gaudiya Vaishnava temple run by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). It is a major spiritual center in the holy town of Vrindavan.

Location, Address, Phone, How to Get There

Location: Raman Reti area, Vrindavan, Mathura district, Uttar Pradesh.

Full Address: ISKCON Temple, Bhaktivedant Swami Marg, Raman Reti Road, Vrindavan, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh - 281121, India.

Phone: Toll-free: 1800-202-1108 (10 AM to 7 PM); Alternate: +91 90689 45108.

Email: info@iskconvrindavan.com.

Official Website: https://iskconvrindavan.com/ (for bookings, live darshan, and updates).

How to Reach:

By Air: Nearest airport is Agra (about 65-70 km) or Delhi (about 150 km). From there, take a taxi or bus to Vrindavan.

By Train: Mathura Junction (about 10-12 km) is the main station; many trains connect to major cities.
From Mathura, take an auto-rickshaw, taxi, or local bus to Vrindavan (20-30 minutes). Vrindavan has a smaller station but fewer connections.

By Road: Well-connected by buses and taxis from Delhi, Agra, and other nearby cities. Auto-rickshaws or e-rickshaws are common within Vrindavan for short distances; parking is limited near the temple, so rickshaws are recommended.

Greatness of This Temple

This temple is revered as a global hub for Krishna consciousness and bhakti yoga.

Built in the sacred land where Lord Krishna and Balaram performed pastimes (lilas), it attracts thousands of devotees worldwide daily.
It offers a serene atmosphere with continuous kirtan (chanting), beautiful deity worship, and a sense of divine presence. It's known for its spiritual empowerment, especially emphasizing Lord Balaram's strength for devotees.

About Sri La Prabhupada (Srila Prabhupada)

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (often referred to as Srila Prabhupada) was the founder-acharya of ISKCON.
Born in 1896, he spread Gaudiya Vaishnavism globally in the 1960s-70s, translating key texts like Bhagavad Gita As It Is and Srimad Bhagavatam.
He personally oversaw the temple's construction in Vrindavan, installing the deities in 1975.
He died in 1977 in his room at this temple, and his samadhi (memorial shrine) is a magnificent white marble structure at the entrance, a key place for devotees to pay respects.
His house on the premises is also preserved as a sacred site.

Legends and History

Vrindavan is the eternal abode of Lord Krishna's childhood pastimes.
The temple is in Raman Reti ("enjoyable sands"), where Krishna and Balaram played as cowherd boys.
Srila Prabhupada envisioned and built it in 1975 as the first major ISKCON temple featuring Krishna and Balaram together, fulfilling his mission to establish grand worship in Krishna's land.
Inaugurated on April 20, 1975, it has grown into a key pilgrimage site.

Architecture of Temple, Deities

Architecture: A stunning blend of traditional Hindu (Rajasthani influences) and modern styles, featuring pristine white marble construction, intricate carvings, domes, pointed arches, and checkerboard marble floors.
It has three main shrines and a spacious courtyard for gatherings.

Main Deities:

- Sri Sri Krishna Balaram (central, installed by Prabhupada in 1975).
- Sri Sri Radha Shyamsundar (Radha-Krishna).
- Sri Sri Gaura Nitai (Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu).

Sub-deities:
The temple focuses on these primary sets; worship includes Tulsi Devi and other associated altars.

Daily Rituals and Poojas and Their Charges

Daily schedule includes:

- Mangala Arati: Early morning (~4-5 AM).
- Tulsi Arati: ~5 AM.
- Darshan Arati: ~7:15 AM.
- Guru Puja: ~7:30 AM.
- Raj Bhog Arati: ~12 PM.
- Evening aratis and kirtans continue until closing (~8-9 PM; varies seasonally).

The temple is open for darshan most of the day, with breaks.

Special devotional offerings (like abhishek, puja) can be booked online via the official site.

Charges vary (e.g., abhishek or specific services); contact the temple or check https://iskconvrindavan.com/ for current details, as they support 80G tax exemptions.

Special Poojas and Rituals and Their Charges

Includes yajna (fire sacrifices), abhishek (bathing deities), yatra bookings, and seasonal special pujas. Book via the website (e.g., /abhishek or /puja-services). Charges depend on the service; inquire directly for specifics.

Festivals

- Major celebrations include:
- Janmashtami (Krishna's birth).
- Radhashtami.
- Gaura Purnima.
- Holi.
- Other events like Ram Navami, Diwali, and ISKCON-specific programs with kirtans, dramas, and feasts.

Facilities for Devotees (Accommodation, etc.)

- Guest houses offer simple, devotional stays (book via official site or email ganapati.gkg@pamho.net; timings for booking: Mon-Sat 10 AM-5 PM).

- Prasadam (sanctified food) available.

- Bookshop, welcome center, and other services.

- Emphasizes "simple living, high thinking."

Donation Info and Bank Account Number

Donations support temple activities (80G eligible). Details available on the official website (https://iskconvrindavan.com/) under donation or contact sections.

Use official channels only to avoid scams; life membership options also exist for benefits.

Nearby Temples

- Prem Mandir (beautiful modern temple nearby).
- Banke Bihari Temple.
- Radha Raman Temple.
- Seva Kunj (close, legendary site).
- Other Vrindavan classics like Govind Dev, Madan Mohan.

Other Tourist Attractions

- Yamuna River ghats.
- Krishna's pastimes sites (e.g., Raman Reti park).
- Mathura (birthplace of Krishna, ~10 km).
- Govardhan Hill and parikrama.

Nearby Budget Hotels

Many affordable options near ISKCON (within 1-2 km):

- Shree Krishna Bhakti Ashram.
- K D Dham Hotel (near Prem Mandir & ISKCON).
- Hotel Brij Vaas.
- Shree Jee Hotel.
- Various guesthouses and ashrams (prices start low; check sites like Booking.com or YatraDham for current rates).

Any Other Info:

- Mobile phones are allowed, but follow temple etiquette (remove shoes, modest dress).
- Live darshan available online.
- Avoid unauthorized agents for bookings—use the official website.
- The temple promotes vegetarianism, no intoxication, and pure devotion.
- For the latest timings/festivals, visit iskconvrindavan.com or contact them directly.
- Hare Krishna!

***

Ref: Google Gemini

Preface: A Journey Through Time and Devotion

Vrindavan is more than a geographical location; it is a living tapestry of ancient history and modern spiritual revival. This documentation serves as a comprehensive guide and digital archive of the Sri Sri Krishna Balaram Mandir (ISKCON), the first international temple established in this sacred town by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada in 1975.

Within these pages, the reader will find:

* **The Modern Pillar**: A detailed look at the architecture, daily rituals, and festivals of the Krishna Balaram Mandir.

* **The Ancient Roots:** An introduction to the Six Goswamis of Vrindavan, the 16th-century saints who rediscovered the "lost" holy sites of the Braj region.

* **A Practical Guide**: Information on nearby temples, travel logistics, and visitor facilities.

* **Multimedia Integration**: Interactive links to official video footage and spiritual discourses to provide an immersive experience.

Whether you are a researcher of cultural heritage, a digital archiver, or a pilgrim seeking spiritual connection, this document aims to preserve and present the multifaceted glory of Vrindavan in a structured, accessible format.

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Here is the detailed information regarding the Sri Sri Krishna Balaram Mandir, popularly known as the ISKCON Temple in Vrindavan.

1. **Location & Accessibility**

* **Address**: Bhaktivedanta Swami Marg, Raman Reti, Vrindavan, Mathura District, Uttar Pradesh – 281121.

* **Phone**: 1800-202-1108 (10 AM – 7 PM) / +91-9068945108.

* **How to Get There:**

* **By Air:** The nearest airport is Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi (approx. 167 km).
* **By Train**: Mathura Junction (17 km away) is the major railhead. From there, you can take a taxi or auto-rickshaw.
* **Local**: Within Vrindavan, the temple is easily accessible via e-rickshaws or auto-rickshaws.

2. **Greatness & Significance**

This temple is one of the most important ISKCON centers globally.

It is the first temple established by the founder-acharya, Srila Prabhupada, in India.

It serves as a powerhouse for the "Hare Krishna" movement and is famous for its 24-hour continuous Kirtan (spiritual chanting), which has been running since 1986.

3. **History & Legends**

* **History**: Inaugurated on Ram Navami in 1975, Srila Prabhupada personally oversaw its design and construction.

* **Legend**: The temple is built in the Raman Reti area, which translates to "pleasurable sands."

It is believed to be the exact spot where Krishna and Balaram performed their childhood pastimes (leelas) with their cowherd friends.

4. **Architecture & Deities**

* **Architecture**: The temple is a magnificent structure made of white marble with three main altars.
It features an open-air courtyard and a stunning "Samadhi Mandir" (memorial) of Srila Prabhupada at the entrance.

* **Main Deities:**

  * Central Altar: Sri Sri Krishna and Balaram.
  * Right Altar: Sri Sri Radha Shyamasundar with Lalita and Vishakha (Gopis).
  * Left Altar: Sri Gaura-Nitai (Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityananda Prabhu).

* **Sub-Deities**:

Deities of Srila Prabhupada and his Guru, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur, are located on the left altar and in the Samadhi Mandir.

5. **Daily Rituals & Poojas**

General Timings:

* Morning: 4:30 AM – 12:45 PM
* Evening: 4:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Ritual	Time
Mangala Aarti	4:30 AM
Tulsi Aarti	5:00 AM
Shringar Darshan	7:15 AM
Guru Puja	7:30 AM
Srimad Bhagavatam Class	8:00 AM
Raj Bhoga Aarti	12:00 PM
Sandhya (Gaura) Aarti	7:00 PM
Shayan Aarti	8:30 PM

* **Charges**: General entry and darshan are free.

* **Special Poojas**: Devotees can sponsor Sevas such as Rajbhog Seva, Gau Seva (cow service), or Pushpa Abhishek.
For specific charges and booking, it is best to visit the Seva Office on-site or their official website, as rates fluctuate based on the festival or specific requirement.

6. **Festivals & Facilities**

* **Major Festivals**:
Janmashtami (Krishna's birthday), Radhashtami, Gaura Purnima, Holi, and the entire month of Kartik (Oct/Nov).

* **Accommodation**:

* Krishna Balaram Guesthouse: Located inside the temple premises. (Call: +91-8445992718)
* MVT (Mayapur Vrindavan Trust): A premium guesthouse located just behind the temple.
* Other Facilities: Govinda's Restaurant (purely vegetarian/satvik food), a well-stocked bookstore, and a Goshala.

7. **Donation Information**

The temple accepts donations for temple maintenance, food distribution (Prasadam), and cow protection.

* **Bank**: Axis Bank
* **Account Name**: ISKCON Temple Maintenance
* **Account Number**: 910010014565158
* **IFSC Code**: UTIB0000794
* **Branch**: Vrindavan

8. **Nearby Attractions & Hotels**

* **Nearby Temples:**

  * Prem Mandir (1.5 km)
  * Banke Bihari Temple (2 km)
  * Radha Raman Temple
  * Madan Mohan Temple

* **Other Attractions**: Nidhivan, Seva Kunj, and Yamuna River Ghats (Keshi Ghat).

* **Budget Hotels:** *
  * Hotel Shri Mohini Kunj
  * Shyama Kishori Dham
  * Hari Dham Guest House
  * Nikunj Hotel (prices usually range from ₹600 to ₹1,500 per night).

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More info on history, legends, deities, rituals, their charges, architecture, festivals…etc:

Here is an expanded and more detailed look into the Sri Sri Krishna Balaram Mandir, organized to support research and digital archiving projects.

Introduction

The Sri Sri Krishna Balaram Mandir, popularly known as ISKCON Vrindavan, stands as a monumental achievement in the modern history of the Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition.

Established in 1975 by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, it was the first temple built by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in India.

Located in the sacred sands of Raman Reti, where Lord Krishna and Balaram are believed to have played five millennia ago, this temple is not merely a place of worship but a global center for spiritual education, traditional music, and cultural preservation.

1. **History and Legends**

* **Divine Arrival**: A popular local legend tells of the night the Deities arrived in Vrindavan in 1975.
It is said that at midnight, as the truck carrying the Deities entered the town, the local environment transformed—birds began singing, peacocks danced, and the air turned unusually fragrant, signaling that the "Lords had returned home."

* **Srila Prabhupada’s Vision**: The temple was the culmination of Srila Prabhupada's desire to provide a world-class facility for international devotees to live in Vrindavan and study the Vedic scriptures.

He personally oversaw the design, ensuring it reflected the traditional "Braj" spirit while meeting modern functional needs.

2. **Architecture of the Temple**

* **Material and Style**: The temple is an "architectural enigma" primarily constructed from pure white marble. It combines the Nagara style of North Indian temple architecture with intricate stone masonry.
* **The Courtyard**: Visitors enter through a grand marble gateway into a sunken black-and-white checkered courtyard. In the center stands a living Tamal tree, a species sacred to Krishna.
* **Unique Features**: Unlike many modern temples, the doors are massive and hand-carved entirely from wood.

The Samadhi Mandir (memorial) of Srila Prabhupada at the entrance features winding peacock stairways and exquisitely carved domes that are considered masterpieces of modern marble work.

3. **Deities in the Temple**

The temple houses three main altars, each meticulously maintained with the highest standards of deity worship (arcana):

* Central Altar: Sri Sri Krishna and Balaram (The presiding deities of the temple).
* Right Altar: Sri Sri Radha Shyamasundar, flanked by the Gopis Lalita and Vishakha.
* Left Altar: Sri Gaura-Nitai (Lord Chaitanya and Lord Nityananda).
* Samadhi Altar: A life-sized brass deity of Srila Prabhupada is worshipped in his memorial shrine.

4. **Daily Rituals and Special Poojas**

The temple follows a strict "Vedic" clock. While Darshan is free, devotees often sponsor Sevas (services).

Daily Schedule (Standard)

* Mangala Aarti: 4:30 AM (The first and most auspicious aarti).
* Shringar Darshan: 7:15 AM (The Deities are revealed in their new daily outfits).
* Raj Bhoga Aarti: 12:00 PM (The main noon offering).
* Sandhya (Gaura) Aarti: 7:00 PM (Evening prayers with intense Kirtan).

Pooja Charges & Donations (Indicative)

Note: Charges are technically "donations" for the service and may vary by festival.

* **Rajbhoga Seva**: ~₹5,555 (Sponsoring the main noon meal for the Deities).
* **Nitya Seva** (Daily Service): Ranges from ₹500 (Srila Prabhupada) to ₹2,000 (Krishna Balaram).

* **Gau Seva** (Cow Care): Small offerings start at ₹20; full cow adoption for a month is ~₹3,000.
* **Special Occasions**: For Marriage Anniversaries or Birthdays, "Naivaidyam" (food offering) packages range from ₹1,555 to ₹55,555.

5. **Major Festivals**

* **Janmashtami**: The birth of Krishna; includes a midnight Abhishek (bathing ceremony) and attracts over a million pilgrims.
* **Radhashtami**: The birth of Radharani. This is the only day of the year when the "Lotus Feet" of Srimati Radharani are revealed for Darshan.
* **Kartik (Oct–Nov):** A month-long festival where thousands of ghee lamps are offered every evening to the Deities.
* **Holi**: Celebrated with traditional "Phoolon ki Holi" (flower petals) and colored powders in a spiritually charged atmosphere.

Conclusion: The Bridge Between Eras

The Sri Sri Krishna Balaram Mandir stands today as a magnificent bridge between the 16th-century vision of the Six Goswamis and the global spiritual landscape of the 21st century.
While the white marble domes and the 24-hour Kirtan represent a modern triumph of architecture and devotion, they are fueled by the same "Braj" spirit that inspired the early pioneers to excavate these sacred sands centuries ago.
By documenting this site, we do more than record facts; we preserve a legacy of cultural resilience and universal peace.
As this archive is shared across digital networks, may it serve as an invitation to explore the profound history, intricate art, and timeless traditions that make Vrindavan the spiritual heart of the world.
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Quick facts for visitors

Category	Details
Primary Deities	Krishna Balaram, Radha Shyamasundar, Gaura-Nitai
Best Time to Visit	Kartik Month (Oct/Nov) or Janmashtami
Special Feature	24-Hour Continuous Akhanda Kirtan
Dress Code	Modest traditional attire preferred
Photography	Allowed in courtyards; restricted in the main altar area
Dining	Govinda's Restaurant (Pure Satvik Cuisine)
Contact for Seva	+91-9068945108

The Six Goswamis of Vrindavan are the foundational figures of the town as we know it today. Including them in your document is actually very appropriate because without them, the "lost" holy sites of Vrindavan might never have been rediscovered.

Who are the Six Goswamis?
They were 16th-century saints and scholars who were direct disciples of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.
They gave up positions of great wealth and power (some were even high-ranking government ministers) to live as humble mendicants in the forests of Vrindavan.
The six saints are:

* Srila Rupa Goswami
* Srila Sanatana Goswami
* Srila Raghunatha Bhatta Goswami
* Srila Jiva Goswami
* Srila Gopala Bhatta Goswami
* Srila Raghunatha Dasa Goswami

Their Significance:
* **Archaeologists of the Spirit**: They physically excavated and identified the "lost" locations of Krishna's pastimes which had been reclaimed by the jungle over thousands of years.
* **Temple Builders**: They established the "Seven Ancient Temples" of Vrindavan, including the famous Radha Raman and Madan Mohan temples.
* **The Intellectual Foundation**: They wrote hundreds of books on philosophy, Sanskrit grammar, and devotion that form the core of the teachings taught at the ISKCON temple today.
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Six Goswamis ….short Biographies

Name	Key Contribution	Famous Temple Founded
Srila Rupa Goswami	The leader; author of *Bhakti-rasamrta-sindhu*.	**Radha Govindadev**
Srila Sanatana Goswami	The elder brother; established the first major temple.	**Madan Mohan**
Srila Jiva Goswami	The greatest scholar; wrote over 400,000 Sanskrit verses.	**Radha Damodar**
Srila Gopala Bhatta	Known for his strict devotion; worshipped a self-manifested deity.	**Radha Raman**
Srila Raghunatha Bhatta	Known for his beautiful recitation of the *Srimad Bhagavatam*.	Supported various temple
Srila Raghunatha Dasa	Renounced extreme wealth; lived at the sacred Radha Kund.	**Radha Kund** area

Videos

ISKCON Temple, Vrindavan (9 min);

https://youtu.be/vaHgwWxlTFs?si=ednPodlMTkwXpJOM

ISKCON Temple, Vrindavan (3 min):https://youtu.be/-5o10v7D9Hs?si=1AN63fh0WGh2AruJ

Ecstatic keertan at ISKCON temple (20 min):

https://youtu.be/V9-EGWfH_vc?si=kjb_fOelLLOAuk9-

Evening keertan and tour …ISKCON Temple, Vrindavan (10 min):

https://youtu.be/wf8-n5uCTOM?si=jmtYI3AnFBLlCsqw

ISKCON Vrindavan Extension (13 min):

https://youtu.be/ew4-fJWq94M?si=ZzF-uGcc4K8GbGJT

ISKCON Temple, Vrindavan….vlog (11 min):

https://youtu.be/Ok75Cxn-8PA?si=LtihiBIW0sP3eMu9

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar ,
March 22, 2026

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